

### REMARKS

Claims 19-31 are pending in the application.

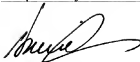
Claims 19-21, 24 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Medoff (7,044,951) in view of Orlich (3,561,437). The references do not teach or suggest providing an alignment hole in the plate, and advancing the plate over a K-wire at the alignment hole. The Examiner has discussed this issue with the Attorney for Applicant, and indicated that claims with such limitation would be allowable. In view thereof, claim 19 has been amended to include the alignment hole and indicate that the K-wire extends through the alignment hole as the plate is advanced to contact the bone. As claim 19 already includes the alignment hole, claim 32 has been added to more particularly claim an oblong shape of the alignment hole, and pending claim 28 (with overlapping subject matter) has been canceled without prejudice.

In addition, claims 22-23 and 26-31 are stated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 22 has been rewritten in independent form. New claim 34 corresponds to claim 26 rewritten in independent form. New claim 36 corresponds to claim 29 rewritten in independent form, new claim 38 corresponds to claim 30 rewritten in independent form, and new 39 corresponds to claim 31. Such claims should all be in condition for allowance.

Dependent claims 33, 35, 37 and 40 have been added to more particularly claim the invention.

It is submitted that the claims are in order for allowance, and prompt allowance is earnestly requested. Should any issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney of record so that the case may proceed expeditiously to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David S. Jacobson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

David S. Jacobson  
Reg. No. 39,235  
Attorney for Applicant(s)

GORDON & JACOBSON, P.C.  
60 Long Ridge Road  
Suite 407  
Stamford, CT 06902  
Ph: (203) 323-1800  
Fax: (203) 323-1803  
[davidj@gordonjacobson.com](mailto:davidj@gordonjacobson.com)

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